

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule

Recycling pickup for Wednesday, Feb. 3, is plastic, metal and glass. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

RAB Meeting set for Thursday

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Installation Restoration Program will meet Jan. 28, 7-9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. Topics include the Carroll Island Study Area and the Graces Quarters Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited. For information, call 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

BOSS meeting set

There will be a Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) meeting on Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m., at the EA Recreation Center. All members and potential members are asked to attend. For information call Ralph Cuomo, 410-278-4402/4056.

Get answers on health care plan

A claim representative of the Government Employees Hospital Association (GEHA) Health Plan will visit APG on Feb. 24, arranged by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. The representative will be available to answer questions and assist with claim problems in building 305, room B-14, 10 a.m.-noon. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call Kathy Anderson, 410-278-2649, and Teri Wright, 410-278-4331, APG CPAC.

Volunteer packets located around post

APG Volunteer of the Year nomination packets are available at the post libraries, Army Community Service, and the Installation Volunteer Office in building 2752. Submit nominations to the Installation Volunteer Office by Feb. 17. Volunteer service in or for the APG community between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1998, is eligible. For information, call Alice Surette, installation volunteer coordinator 410-278-5469.

Reminder to family housing occupants

To prevent frozen pipes and possible damage to government quarters, disconnect garden hoses from outside faucets, and keep storm windows and garages closed. During cold temperatures, allow your kitchen water faucets to drip to prevent water lines from freezing.

Blood drive set for Feb. 9

Sign up for the Red Cross blood drive on Feb. 9, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Red Cross officials said blood supplies are extremely low. Call 410-278-2087 to make an appointment. Donating takes about 45 minutes.

Get help with parenting issues

Get more out of parent/teen relationships through Army Community Service. Meetings will be held Thursdays, 6:30-8 p.m., through Feb. 25, at ACS, *See SHORTS, page 2*

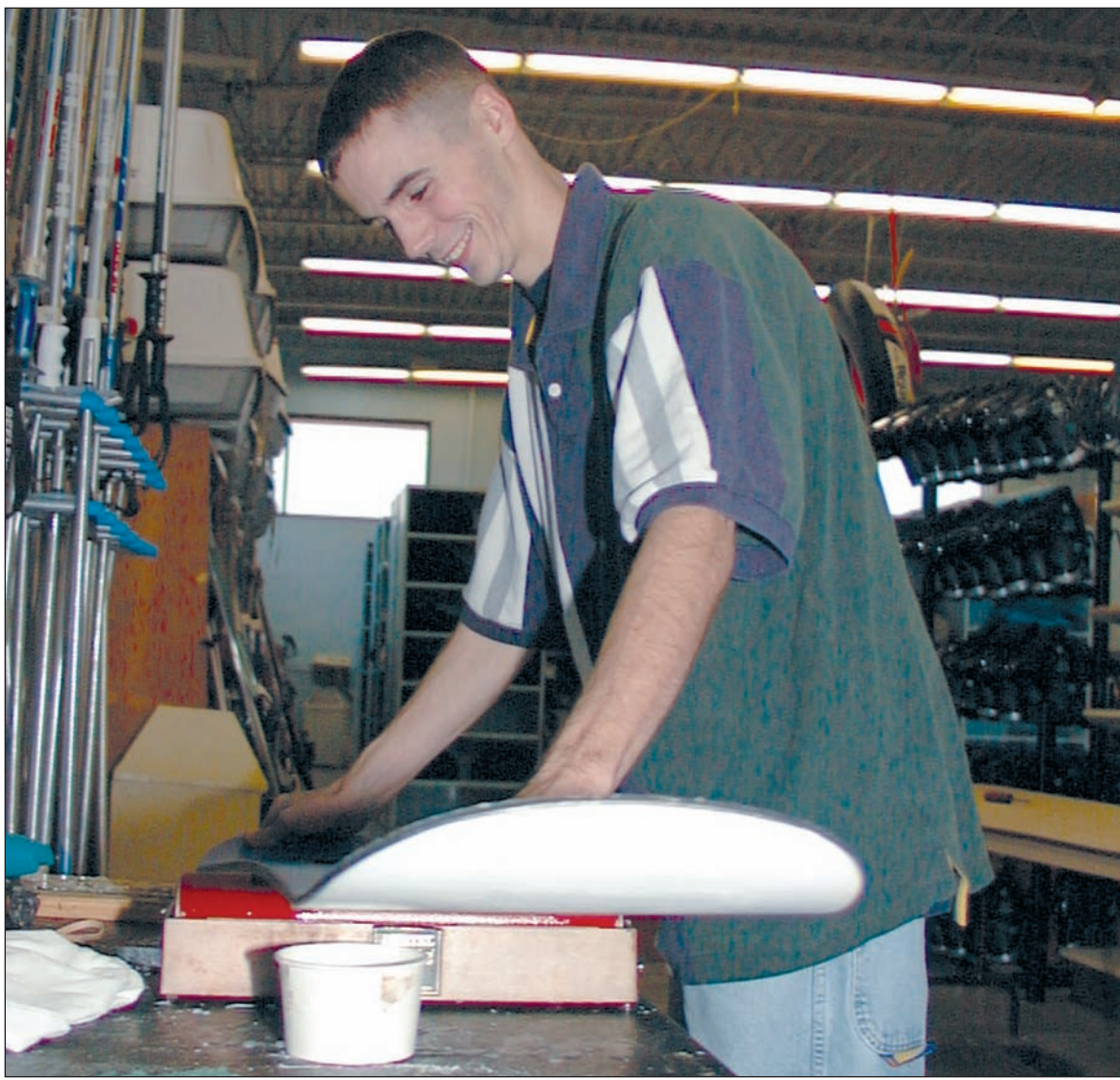


Photo by KAREN JOLLEY DREWEN

After stripping the wax off the bottom of a snowboard, Joseph Scott, employee at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Equipment Resource Center, applies a fresh coat to prepare it for its next downhill event.

Snow business

Ski season means good deals at APG's Equipment Resource Center

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Equipment Resource Center has everything you need for ski season, from what to wear to information on where to go.

Patrons may rent snow skis, boots, poles, ski bibs, car racks, and snow boards all at a considerably lower rate than ski resorts, said Ralph Cuomo, director of the Community Activities Branch at the Directorate of Community and Family Activities.

Cuomo also said the center offers parabolic skis, which he said is the "latest revolution in the ski industry."

"They are the latest rage," said Cuomo. "They have really caught on in the past five years. Eventually, you won't see conventional skis on the slopes."

Cuomo said parabolic skies make turning easier because of their hour glass shape. Cuomo explained the new ski as being extremely wide at the tip and tail, as opposed to conventional skis, which are more straight.

"It is a considerably smaller ski that performs well in both high and low speeds," he said. "It

holds very well. This way the skier gets a wider range of performance, as opposed to the conventional ski."

Renting ski equipment at the center has its benefits, said Cuomo, and personal and friendly service by the Equipment Resource Center is one of them. Cuomo said patrons may be personally fitted for the ski equipment prior to their trip, which saves time and prevents the equipment from not fitting properly.

Cuomo said renting ski equipment at a resort may involve large crowds and lines, with the possibility of improper fittings.

"The center helps patrons to beat the rush and spend more time on the slopes, as opposed to having to wait 30 minutes in line once you get on the mountain," he said. "Patrons can pick up their equipment on the way to the slopes. It is a convenient stop without wasting any time."

The center also offers a variety of sizes in boots ranging from children's size 13 to an adult men's size 14. Ski bibs are also available from a men's size small, which Cuomo said generally fits women as well, to a size 3X. Skis are available in sizes ranging from 90-200 cm in 10 cm

See SKI, page 12

TECOM plans garrison transfer to SBCCOM

TECOM Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command will transfer operational control of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison to the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command on Feb. 19.

The transfer of operational control is the beginning of a transition period that will become effective on Oct. 1, when SBCCOM will assume command and control of the garrison. In the interim, APG Garrison will remain a TECOM organization and involve SBCCOM in garrison operations.

The transfer will support a restructuring of the Army's test-

ing operations. Under that restructuring, which will occur on Oct. 1, 1999, TECOM will be redesignated as the Developmental Test Command and will report to the new Army Test and Evaluation Command, currently the Operational Test and Evaluation Command, in Alexandria, Va.

Since APG is an Army Materiel Command installation, and TECOM will no longer be under AMC in the proposed realignment, the garrison will be transferred to SBCCOM and remain in AMC.

Gary Holloway, TECOM spokesman, said the change will *See TECOM, page 3*

Elections to be held for new APG mayors

By Alice Surette
Quality of Life coordinator

February will be a busy and interesting month for APG family housing residents. Elections will be held for mayor, vice mayor and secretary of the Community Life Mayoral Program.

Residents of family housing are encouraged to help select their neighborhoods' representatives.

At APG, the family housing communities are spread out over

many miles. Housing units range from single-family homes to multi-family townhomes and mobile-home parks. The communities have many common issues, such as quarters maintenance and repair, child safety, pet control, and parking and speeding concerns.

However, each neighborhood is unique, and the mayor serves as the communication link between the residents and the

See MAYORS, page 3

Largest class of cadets graduates from 22-week ChalleNGe program

By Meghan Heimbach
APG News

Saturday brought rain and fog to Harford County, but you wouldn't have known it from the warm smiles that filled the Post Theater.

There, 102 cadets of the Maryland National Guard's Freestate ChalleNGe Academy faced their futures. The 102 diplomas presented that day marked an achievement that at one time seemed impossible. The students, once "high school dropouts," joined the program 22

weeks ago to better their lives and futures. After a long and intense challenge, family, friends and guests filled the theater with applause to let the students know just how proud of them they were.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. James F. Fretterd, adjutant general for Maryland, remarked that the graduating class, which was the largest in the program's five-year history, showed the most academic achievement of any class.

See CHALLENGE, page 4

Groundhog Day

To see a shadow or not to see a shadow? Find out Feb. 2

By Karen Jolley Drewen
APG News

The post groundhog population may challenge the human population in number, but an environmental employee said the furry creatures generally coexist with people well.

"There are literally thousands of them on post, but they don't usually cause problems," said Jim Pottie, APG's wildlife biologist. "The only places we actively control them is in the neighborhoods, where people may hurt themselves by falling into a hole, in the horse pasture in the Edgewood Area, and in places where they can cause mission problems. Basically, they're free to grow and thrive like the rest of the wildlife on post."

Live traps are used to capture groundhogs in problem areas and transport them to less-populated areas.

While they may be a nuisance for gardeners, groundhogs and humans have few problems coexisting, he added. However, any animal that acts aggressive should be avoided and reported, due to the danger of rabies.

APG may not boast any well-known groundhogs, but Pennsylvania's "Punxsutawney Phil" will be making his annual prediction on Feb. 2, Groundhog Day.

Groundhog Day grew out of an old Roman tradition, and is mentioned in a Scottish couplet:

"If Candlemas Day is bright and clear,
There'll be two winters in the year."

Legend had it that if any animal emerged from its underground hibernation on Feb. 2 and the sun was out, there would be six more weeks of winter, hence "two winters."

In the early 1880s, a group of residents from Punxsutawney, Pa., decided to celebrate Candlemas Day by going to the woods in search of a groundhog. Go to "www.groundhog.org" and you will find a site with information from the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the book "Mammals of the Eastern United States."

According to that web site, in 1886 the

editor of the local newspaper named the group the "Punxsutawney Groundhog Club." On Feb. 2, 1887, Punxsutawney Phil gave his first official weather forecast and became famous world-wide.

As Feb. 2 approaches each year, the town of Punxsutawney comes alive with celebrations as thousands of visitors make the annual trek to see Punxsutawney Phil proclaim his forecast.

According to Cornell University, woodchuck and groundhog are common terms for the same animal, the rodent with the scientific name of *Marmota monax*. Most closely related to squirrels, woodchucks actually can climb trees and also swim. The plant-eating creatures eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion greens, and clover, and many post residents have found they also are tempted by garden vegetables. Groundhogs purposefully put on weight in the summer, reaching their maximum mass in late August. They become

See GROUNDHOG, page 3



ATC/APG team to support foreign comparative testing program

By Lena Goodman
ATC Public Affairs Office

The International Cooperative Programs Activity hosted a visit by Lt. Gen. Michael S. Davison Jr., director of the Defense Security Cooperative Agency, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Jan. 7 to acquaint him with the foreign comparative test program, since it is being transitioned from Test Systems Engineering and Evaluation to Davison’s agency.

“The FCT program was set-up by Congress to encourage project managers to evaluate the suitability of allied equip-

ment meeting Army requirements,” said Tom Buonaugurio, an ICPA employee who briefed Davison on the program.

Buonaugurio said Aberdeen Test Center was the cornerstone in making this event successful, since ATC provided the bulk of the equipment and facilities for the display.

“ATC hosted the 20-piece display of foreign equipment already successfully fielded and currently under evaluation,” Buonaugurio said. “The display included well-known items such as the Fox Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance Vehicle (Germany) and

the M119 105mm Howitzer (UK). The Fox is used to detect and mark areas of contamination, while the M119 is used by the 82nd Airborne Division and other Army units for artillery support.”

Buonaugurio said Davison’s visit would not have been successful without assistance from activities such as Program Manager, Smoke; Program Manager, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Equipment; and Program Manager, Mines Countermines Demolitions.

“The support from these activities on APG was excellent for this visit and

could not have been done anywhere else because APG is unique in that there are many organizations here involved in developing and testing defense equipment,” he said.

“The high density of systems and knowledgeable employees that can be quickly brought together on-site and at minimal cost for these important visits is impressive,” he added.

The FCT program is funded separately by Congress. The Army typically receives \$10-12 million per year for new and continuing projects. The program allowed for evaluation of 135 defense

systems, of which 42 were bought and fielded. Davison’s visit provided first-hand knowledge of the positive impact of the program to the Army.

Davison thanked all participants during lunch and described his visit to ATC as “outstanding.” He acknowledged that APG has a valuable, unique role in Army defense equipment development, and more remarkable was that this “quality installation” is convenient for the decision-makers in Washington, D.C.

Davison is the son of Lt. Gen. Michael S. Davison Sr., a highly decorated Vietnam-era veteran.

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

building 2754. For information, call Peggy Horne, ACS Family Advocacy Program, 410-278-3784/7474. The ACS S.T.E.P. class (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) started Wednesday and will be held through Feb. 24, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at ACS. Bring a bag lunch.

Family Child Care training set

Family Child Care training will be conducted the week of March 15-19. Interviews will be held on March 8, 9 and 11. Applicants interested in providing home-based child care, especially in the Edgewood Area, are encouraged to apply. For applications, call 410-278-8720. Bring a professionally trained provider in a warm home environment offers many benefits: free training in a marketable occupation; credit transfers to Army installations world-wide; free use of toy lending library; free referrals by Central Registry; free monthly newsletter; free workshops (nutrition, child psychology, CPR, tax assistance); participation in the National CDA credential program; participation in the USDA food program; and self employment. For more information, call Gail Smith, 410-278-7477/8720 or Kathy Reese, 410-436-2692/3355.

EAOWC offers scholarships

The Edgewood Area Officers’ Wives Club is pleased to once again offer a \$1,000 youth scholarship on behalf of the USPA and IRA Educational Foundation. The EAOWC will also offer three additional \$500 scholarships, two to high school seniors and one to a currently enrolled full-time college student. To be eligible for the awards, one must be the child of an active-duty, retired or deceased service member, who will be attending college during the 1999-2000 school year. Applications may be obtained at all high schools in Harford County, the EA Thrift Shop, the EA Library, or by calling Evelyn Atchison, 410-297-8558.

The EAOWC will also donate \$500 for a spouse scholarship which will be given to a spouse of active duty, retired, or deceased military members. Applications also will be available at the EA Thrift Shop, the EA Library, and through Evelyn Atchison.

Applications for students and spouse scholarships must be received by April 2. Winners will be notified by early May.

Red Cross has classes scheduled

The American Red Cross will offer an Instructor’s Candidate Course on Feb. 1 in the Red Cross conference room in building 2477. The one-week class will be held Monday-Friday, 6-10 p.m. The prerequisite is certification in Community First Aid and Safety. Cost is \$50.

A Community First Aid and Safety Class will be held on Feb. 6 and March 19. The class is held from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Register soon because spaces are limited. Cost is \$25. Upon completion you will be certified in first aid for three years and community CPR for one year.

A baby-sitting class will be held Feb. 13 and 20, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Those who complete the class will be placed on a list for baby-sitting for the post, with permission from parents. Cost is \$10 for all ID card holders, with scholarships donated by the post thrift shops.

For information about classes, call Carolyn Lerwill at 410-278-2087. Course fees are payable by check to the American Red Cross.

NAF Open Season extended

Because of delays in getting information to Nonappropriated Fund

employees, NAF Open Season has been extended to Jan. 31 for employees who need more time to decide the coverage they want. Employees electing new or changing existing coverage after Dec. 31 but before Jan. 31 will have coverage effective on Feb. 1. Deductions from pay will commence on Feb. 4. Contact NAF-CPO at 410-278-5126/5127 if you have questions or want an appointment to change your medical or life insurance.

EAOWC to donate funds

The Edgewood Area Officers Wives Club will donate funds to services and charities this spring. If your group or organization is interested in receiving a donation, provide a request in writing by Feb. 28, to Deborah Pellissier, EAOWC Services and Charities, 4842 Austin Rd., Gunpowder, MD 21010. Be as specific as possible in stating the purpose for which the funds will be used, and include the name, title, address and phone number of a contact person.

School-age children wanted

School-Age Services is looking for children enrolled in first through eighth grades to join the program. School-Age Services (SAS) is a before- and after-school program that offers a safe and fun place for children while parents are at work. The program is located in building 2522 in the Aberdeen Area, and building E-1902 in the Edgewood Area. Bus service is provided by Harford County to Aberdeen Middle and Roye-Williams Elementary schools in Aberdeen and Edgewood Elementary and Middle schools in Edgewood. The program offers activities such as sports, arts and crafts, homework assistance, computer lab, snacks and music. For more information on the SAS Program, call 410-278-4995 in the Aberdeen Area and 410-436-2862 in the Edgewood Area.

EA Thrift Shop needs accountant

The Edgewood Area Thrift Shop, located in building E-1633 at the corner of Wise and Stark roads, is now interviewing applicants for the position of bookkeeper. The current bookkeeper soon will be leaving, and she would like the opportunity to interview and train the successful applicant. The shop is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and, provided that it does not encompass a holiday weekend, the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For further information about duties and salary, call 410-676-4733 during the business hours listed.

Send in soup labels to CDC

The Aberdeen Area Child Development Center collects Campbell’s Soup labels to redeem for equipment to be used by children enrolled at the center. Eligible products include: Campbell’s bean products; chunky, condensed, Home Cookin’ and Healthy Request soups; Campbell’s tomato juices; Franco-American gravies, SpaghettiO’s; Pace Picante; Pepperidge Farm products; V8 juices; Swanson products; and Prego spaghetti sauces. Your label donations may be dropped off at the AA CDC, building 2485 at the box in the front lobby or you may mail them to the AA CDC, building 2485. Call Kim Fillinger at 410-278-9950 or 410-939-5950 for more details.

Schools seek receipts, labels

The Aberdeen Middle School and Edgewood Elementary School Parent-Teacher Associations are seeking donations of Klein’s Supermarket receipts and Campbell’s labels. Klein’s is running a “Computers Plus for Schools” program through May 25. Pink register receipts are issued to all customers. The small portion with the

total cost of groceries is needed, so the schools can redeem receipts for free computers, audio-visual equipment, software, books and sports equipment. Products included are: Franco American, Marie’s, Pace, Pepperidge Farm, Prego, Swanson, V8 and Vlasic.

Mail labels and receipts by June 1 to Aberdeen Middle School, ATTN: PTA, 111 Mount Royal Ave., Aberdeen, MD 21001 (call Rose Ann Spieles, 410-272-6308, for details); or Edgewood Elementary School, ATTN: PTA, 2100 Cedar Dr., Edgewood, MD 21040 (call Kathy Shrontz for details, 410-612-0444).

APG Tutorial Program volunteers needed

The post is seeking support for the APG Tutorial Program, which provides volunteer tutors to assist local secondary school students who are having difficulty in school. Counselors in each school select students who need help, want help and can benefit from tutorial assistance. The counselor informs the student’s parents of the program. The parents contact the APG program coordinator, who selects an appropriate tutor from the list of volunteers. The tutor contacts the student’s family to set up a mutually agreeable place and schedule for help. Most tutors meet with their students for an hour or two each week until the student is on track, usually within two months. No teaching experience is necessary to participate. Call Peggy Horne, Army Community Service, 410-278-7474/4372; Joyce Harris, 410-278-1417; or Bill Starke, 410-436-1712.

Need a lawyer?

If you need a power of attorney, stop by building 310, wing 2, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and every other Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Use the computer in the Legal Assistance Office to prepare the power of attorney, with help from a notary public. For more information call, 410-278-1583/1584.

Red Cross has toll-free number

The American Red Cross has a new toll-free number for emergency communications. To contact the American Red Cross at APG for emergency communications to obtain financial assistance, active duty military members and members of their immediate family should call 1-877-272-7337. For all non-emergency matters, continue to call 410-278-2087 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Family Housing Office hours

The Family Housing Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The office participates in the compressed work schedule, with every other Friday off. For more information call 410-306-2010.

Give up nicotine

Nicotine Anonymous, a 12-step program to help you quit and stay that way, meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Bel Air at the First Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Main Street and Broadway, across from Klein’s Supermarket. For more information, call 410-939-0803.

Stressed parents need support

The Family Tree, a statewide child abuse prevention agency, is looking for dedicated individuals to help support stressed parents and prevent child abuse and neglect in Harford County. Volunteer opportunities include teaching 12-week positive parenting classes, serving as a mentor to families and facilitating weekly children's programs. Four hours a week is all it takes. To become a Family Tree volunteer, call 410-893-5203.

LEGAL UPDATE

Get help with preparing your taxes

Legal Assistance Office

Income tax season is here. Are you prepared to file your tax return? Do you need help in preparing your return? Would you like to file your return electronically for free, and get your refund back faster than if you filed by mail?

The Installation Tax Assistance Program, directed by the Office of the Chief Counsel and Staff Judge Advocate, Client Services Division, will provide free tax assistance this year to qualifying military members, retirees, and dependents.

A Taxpayer Assistance Center has been established in Wing 4A, Building 310, down the hall from the Legal Assistance Office, and be will open to the public after Feb. 1, Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Military units have appointed trained personnel to assist military members with tax return preparation.

Through a joint effort by the Office of the Chief Counsel and Staff Judge Advocate, the Internal Revenue Service, and Maryland’s Comptroller of the Treasury Revenue Administration Division, a week of comprehensive training has been provided for unit tax advisors under the IRS-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. The advisors have been trained in federal and Maryland income tax return preparation. An examination at the end of the course certifies each unit tax advisor as a VITA income tax preparer. Military members who desire assistance in preparing and filing income tax returns should contact their advisor (see list below). Persons who do not have an advisor and retirees and their family members may make an appointment for free tax assistance by calling 410-278-3397.

Unit tax advisors are designated in each company-sized unit to assist soldiers in preparing federal and Maryland income tax returns. The advisors can set up self-help instructional classes with proper coordination or can prepare individual returns for soldiers using

VITA materials. Tax issues and returns beyond the scope of the VITA program will be referred to the Taxpayer Assistance Center or a paid tax preparer.

Gather all of the information needed to file an accurate return, including W-2 statements, Form 1099s, Social Security numbers for all dependents, child care expenses and provider identification, and Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRA) information. If you think you should itemize deductions, you will need a mortgage interest statement, alimony information and information such as medical receipts, rental reports, investment statements and charitable contribution receipts. Your unit tax advisor cannot help you prepare a return unless you bring the needed documentation. Failure to produce these documents can lead to an inaccurate tax return and IRS penalties.

Tax forms can be obtained at the library, the post office, from your unit tax advisor, or at the Taxpayer Assistance Center.

Free electronic filing is also available through most unit tax advisors and the Taxpayer Assistance Center. If you are due a refund and qualify for the tax assistance program, you can have your tax return electronically filed. The advisor will schedule appointments for electronic filing after careful review of each return. Electronic filing will enable you to receive your refund by check or direct deposit into your bank account rather than having it mailed. The average return time is approximately three weeks for a check mailed to you and seven to 10 days for deposit into your checking or savings account.

For further information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact your unit tax advisor on the list here, or the Taxpayer Assistance Center, building 310, wing 4A, 410-278-3397/1583.

See the list of unit tax advisors on page 11, Community Notes, for phone numbers and points of contact.

APG NEWS

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STAFF
Commanding General **Maj. Gen. Edward L. Andrews**
Public Affairs Officer **Gary A. Holloway**
Editor **Karen Jolley Drewen**
Editorial assistant **Marguerite Towson**
Contract staff writers **Meghan Heimbach**
 **Sheila Little**
Graphic design coordinator **Tracy Wagemann**

APG neighborhoods to choose mayors

MAYORS, from front page

command, to voice concerns and provide solutions. Mayors organize community meetings so residents can present ideas and concerns and get information on post services and regulations.

Mayors also attend monthly meetings with the deputy installation commander and representatives of his staff to propose new projects and identify problems.

Mayors encourage community pride and spirit by helping to promote community programs and activities.

The 12 designated family housing communities and two mobile home parks that need mayoral representation are:

Aberdeen Area

Bayside Village, Patriot Village, Shore Gardens,

Mobile Home Park, New Chesapeake, Plumb Point Loop and Hopkins Loop.

Edgewood Area

Everette/Scully, Lee/Reider, Austin/Parrish, Mobile Home Park, Chevron/Clearview, Skippers Point and Grant Court.

If you are age 18 or older, live in one of the family housing communities and would like to volunteer to represent your community, or know someone who would, fill out the nomination ballot at the right. Training is provided to all who volunteer. Send ballots to the Quality of Life Office, building 2752, room 202, or fax to 410-278-4658. All nominations must be received by close of business on Feb. 23.

For more information regarding elections or housing areas, contact Alice Surette, 410-278-5469.

NOMINATION BALLOT

MAYOR/VICE MAYOR/SECRETARY

**Aberdeen Proving Ground
Community Life Mayoral Program**

What is it?

It is a program to improve the quality of life for the military families of Aberdeen Proving Ground, giving residents a voice in decision-making regarding community policies, facilities and services.

Who Can Be A Mayor/Vice Mayor/Secretary?

Any family member (not active duty) 18 years or older is eligible. Candidates must live in the area they represent. Mayoral program volunteers receive free child care while performing official duties.

How Does It Work?

It establishes a system of neighborhood (non-military) Mayors who provide a line of communication between the Post staff and the community.

Aberdeen Housing Areas

- Bayside Village
- Hopkins Loop
- Mobil Home Park
- New Chesapeake
- Patriot Village
- Plumb Point Loop
- Shore Gardens

Edgewood Housing Areas

- Skipper's Point
- Lee/Reider Court
- Mobil Home Park
- Everette/Scully Road
- Grant Court
- Chevron/Clearview Drive
- Austin/Parrish Road

What Are A Mayor's Duties?

- Recruit neighborhood volunteers to assist in implementing the mayoral program.
- Conduct town meetings on a regular basis to identify issues and exchange information.

If more than one person is nominated for an office, a run-off election will be conducted. If only one person is nominated for an office, she/he will be considered the unanimous choice of the community. If no nominations are received for an office, the Commander, Aberdeen Proving Ground, may appoint an interim representative to fill the position.

Nominations close Feb 23. Return Ballot to Ms. Alice Surette, Quality of Life Coordinator, building 2752, room 202 or FAX to 410-278-4658. For more information on the Mayoral Program call 410-278-5469.

MAYOR	VICE MAYOR	SECRETARY
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____	Address _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____
Housing Area _____	Housing Area _____	Housing Area _____

assess, and resolve issues.

Q. What are a mayor's duties?

A. Mayors serve as points of contact for community residents to identify concerns, needs, and recommendations for improving family life. Mayors assist in developing, managing and providing access to programs and services that respond to neighborhood needs. They meet monthly with the deputy installation commander and members of his staff to discuss issues that will help improve the quality of life in the community. Mayors recruit neighborhood volunteers to assist them in implementing the mayoral program, and conduct community meetings to identify issues and exchange information with residents in their community.

Q. Who can be a mayor?

A. Any family member age 18 or older who lives in one of the APG family housing communities or mobile home parks can be a mayor.

Q. Is training provided?

A. Yes. Extensive training is provided to all who volunteer for the program prior to taking office. Additional training is provided throughout the year for volunteers who express an interest.

Q. How much time is involved?

A. Mayors can spend as little as five hours a month or as much as 20 hours depending on how involved they want to be. However, they are required to attend a two-hour meeting each month with the deputy installa-

tion commander. Each volunteer is sworn into office for a one year term which runs March through February.

Q. Is child care provided?

A. Yes. Free limited child care is provided for mayoral volunteers when they are volunteering.

Q. Who can I contact for more information?

A. For more detailed information or to volunteer for the program, call Alice Surette, Quality of Life coordinator, 410-278-5469.

TECOM to transfer garrison to SBCCOM

TECOM, from front page

be “transparent” to the public and APG’s 57 tenant organizations, meaning that day-to-day operations of the installation will not be affected by the transfer.

APG Garrison employs about 1,300 of the 7,300 government civilian employees who work on the installation and provides tenant organizations a variety of logistical support, such as building maintenance and repair, utilities, telephone service, fire and

police service, etc.

SBCOM, previously called the Chemical and Biological Defense Command, traces its lineage to 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson designated the Gunpowder Reservation for chemical and ordnance production plants. The command is the Army's center for chemical, biological and soldier systems (Natick) expertise, with operations at more than a dozen locations across the United States.

Annual groundhog prediction to gauge length of winter

GROUNDHOG, from front page

lethargic and prepare for hibernation in October, and by February have lost as much as half their body weight during hibernation.

And, in answer to the old question — “How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?”

- it's about 700 pounds. The woodchuck/groundhog may chew wood, but doesn't really move timber. But if you average the amount of dirt in a typical burrow, and estimate that wood filled the space instead of dirt, the groundhog would have "chucked" about 700 pounds.

New graduates make plans for future following challenging 22-week National Guard-run program

CHALLENGE, from front page

“Today marks a turning point in your lives,” Fretterd said to the students. “You not only received your diploma, but a second chance. Make the most of it, because people rarely get a third chance.”

Army Reserve Maj. Michell Graff, academic staff member and lead instructor of the program, said the students were a “pleasure to work with.”

“Every class has its own personality,” she said. “This was a very humble and congenial class. They bumped along and for the most part did everything that was told to them. They were a very easy-going class.”

Joe Padilla, chief of the Youth Programs Branch, Public Affairs and Community Support, National Guard Bureau, spoke at the ceremony of the “overwhelming” amount of teamwork and perseverance he observed when he spent time with the class halfway through the term.

Padilla told the students to remember how they got to where they are, and in closing comments, recited the lyrics to “Wind Beneath My Wings.”

Keynote speaker Dr. Claudia E. Chiesi, president of Harford Community College, related Saturday’s fog to the students’ lives before entering the academy.

“Fog makes seeing hard and unclear,” she said. “Six months ago, a lot of you found yourselves in a fog. A hand from this challenging program helped to guide you through it. Now you’ve made it, and now the visibility is clear.”

Chiesi spoke of the possibilities that will follow graduation.

“Each of you has had cross-roads in life,” she said. “After all the ‘no’s’ follows a whole bunch of ‘yeses.’ Life will always be tough once you leave here today. There will be splittage in the roads, but try not to get discouraged.”

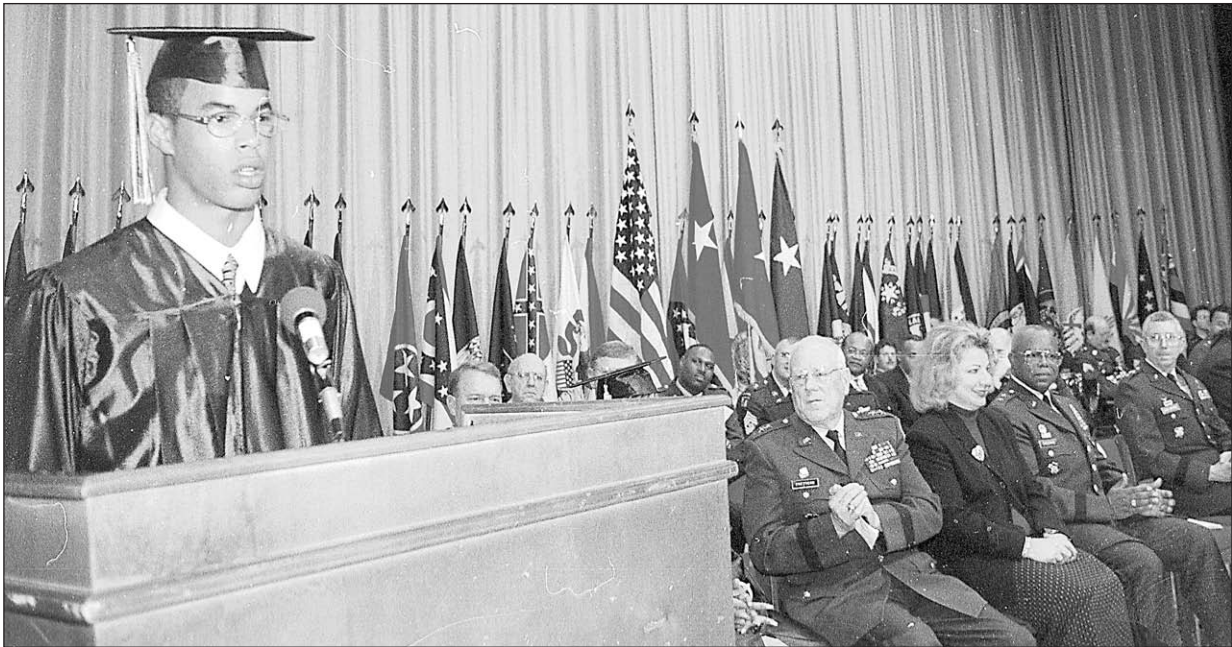


Photo by BRIAN BURKE

Reuben Gordon, a graduate of the Freestate Military Youth Corps’ largest class, talks about how the 22-week program changed his life, during Saturday’s graduation at the Post Theater.

In closing, Chiesi remembered Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his words of building character and reaching goals.

“You cannot lead where you do not go, and you can not learn what you do not know,” she quoted.

Following the ceremony guests were invited to a reception at the APG Recreation Center.

The Freestate ChalleNGe Academy receives its students from Maryland counties, Baltimore City, and the District of Columbia. Among the graduates were Harford County’s Catalino Rodriguez, 16; Shadnon Reed, 17; Brianna Humphreys, 17, and Justin Bond, 17.

Bond received a savings bond from Kappa Alpha Psi.

Reed, who received a plaque for leadership and a savings bond from Veterans of Foreign Wars Aberdeen Post 10028, said he plans to enlist in the Army. He said the past 22 weeks have been rewarding, but have had their ups and downs. Reed said he learned about the program when he spoke to his school guidance counselor because he was looking for a “better learning environment” in

which to receive his education.

“It has been stressful and very challenging, both mentally and physically,” he said. “Receiving my high school diploma has been my highest reward.”

The VFW also awarded Reed with a framed certificate for “providing assistance and care” to the residents of the Harford County Rehabilitation Center when performing volunteer work with his class.

Rodriguez, who also received a framed certificate for volunteering at the Harford County Rehabilitation Center, and a savings bond from the ChalleNGe Spirits Awards, said his plans for the future are to get a part-time job and enroll in classes at HCC.

“I’m not sure where I see myself in 10 years, but I know I would like to be somewhere in the medical field,” he said. “This program has been very good for me in helping me plan a future. Not only did I receive my high school diploma, but I have made friends here, who I most definitely will keep in touch with.”

Humphreys, who received the Freestate ChalleNGe Academic Achievement Award and a \$500

scholarship from the Rotary Club of Towson, said she is registered full-time at HCC. She plans to continue her education in general studies until she chooses a career field, and hopes to transfer to Towson University.

“Being away from home has really been hard on me and my mom,” she said. “I am very close with her and I know now that I don’t ever want to be away from her again.”

Humphreys said she and her mother were going through very difficult times before she enrolled in the academy, and the past five months have really showed her how much her mother means to her.

“In 10 years I hope to have my own home, dog and career,” she said.

As for children, Humphreys said she is not too sure if she wants to have them.

“You know what they say, if you gave your parents a hard time, your own children will come back three times worse,” she said. “After putting my mom through what I did, I don’t know if I could handle my own.”

Humphreys said she is looking

forward to getting started on her new life, and said the program was a good way to get her motivated.

Col. Vernon Sevier, director of the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy, explained cadets live on post in renovated barracks on Student Drive in the Aberdeen Area.

He said selection for the next class is complete, and cadets will be in-processed on Feb. 14 at Russell Gymnasium. Sevier said the selection process for the February class began in October, adding the academy receives 500 applicants for each class. As of last week, 215 students had been selected.

The program’s interview process is long, and is not taken lightly, said Sevier. The selection process begins with an interview of both the student and his or her parents, and students are then given the Test of Adult Basic Education. Sevier said the test challenges the students’ math and reading ability. The grades are then combined with the interview to determine if the students are ready for the program.

“It is a fairly long and elaborate process,” he said. “We go through six to seven interview sessions a term. We do most of our selections here at APG, but we also do a good number of them in Washington, D.C.”

Sevier said parents are also briefed on what is expected of them before their child enters the program.

Sevier said many of the students who come to the program have had a rough time due to family life problems.

He added that it is extremely important that parents understand what role they play to help the students set their goals and priorities.

For more information about the Freestate ChalleNGe Academy call Chaplain (Maj.) Ron Martin-Minnich, recruiting coordinator, 410-306-1810.

Libraries have new books

The Garrison Library has new books for your reading pleasure. Stop by the Aberdeen Area Library or the Edgewood Area Branch and check out some books. New at the libraries are:

The Age Of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence, by Ray Kurzweil;

Battle of Antietam: The Official History, by The Antietam Battlefield Board;

Beating the Dow with Bonds, by Michael O’Higgins;

Best Bet Internet, by Shirley Duglin Kennedy;

Fortress America: The American Military and Consequences of Peace, by William Greider;

Pushing the Envelope: All the Way to the Top, by Harvey Mackay;

Roth IRA Book: An Investor’s Guide, by Gobind Daryanani;

A Season in Hell: A Memoir, by Marilyn French;

Viagra, by Jonathan Jarow;

The Aberdeen Area Library is located at building 3320 on Aberdeen Boulevard. The library is open Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; it is closed on Thursday and Friday.

The Edgewood Area Branch is located at building E-4405 on Austin Road. It is open Sunday, 1-5 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. It is closed Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Retiring Marine leaves challenges for the future

By E.C. Starnes
Ordnance Corps Corporate Affairs

Joseph Daniel Vasquez has been known by many names in his 45 years – J.D., Joe, “Lumberjack Joe.” But the one of which he is most proud is “Marine.”

“Ever since I was old enough to grab a stick from the woods and make believe it was my rifle,” he said, “I’ve wanted to be a United States Marine.”

His dream came to an end Jan. 22 as he retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a chief warrant officer three with 25 years of service, the final three served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School.

Lt. Col. Robert Thomas, detachment commander, said, “Many of us have worn the name ‘Marine,’ but Chief Vasquez has lived it every day.”

Thomas said he has known Vasquez for years as an “Ordnance officer, recon Marine, mentor and personal friend.”

Vasquez, born on Jan. 7, 1954, in Hartford, Conn., credited his family for any success he may have achieved during his career.

“My parents taught all of us... to love our country, be honest, and treat others with dignity,” he said. “Too often I’ve fallen short trying to live by their words of wisdom, but never, ever have I slackened in my love or reverence for America and her Constitution.”

**Challenge 1:
Read the Constitution**

As he stood before a crowded recreation center audience, he asked “those who will continue on as Marines to accept a few challenges” and overcome obstacles. He issued challenge number one by calling on all Marines present to read our Constitution.

“This is the document,” he stressed, “that you may be called upon to give your life for.”

**Challenge 2:
Remember the past**

Challenge number two, Vasquez said, is for all officers, staff NCOs and NCOs of today and tomorrow to educate their

subordinates about our past, “through mentoring future generations about the legacy of not only the Corps, but the history of America.

“Without an understanding of where we are today, we may one day find that the resolve so critical to overcoming adversity against an enemy may be lacking,” he said.

**Challenge 3:
Do what’s right**

Challenge number three, he noted, is based on the fact that every Marine, from private to commandant, is a leader, “24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“People need to see in you someone who is decisive, unafraid and confident in accomplishing the mission at hand. We are a unique breed,” he said.

He noted that everyone needs to do what is right even when they think nobody is watching.

“When I was at Camp Pendleton, I saw a two-star general come running out of the division headquarters, across a parade deck, and approach a lance corporal whom the general had observed nonchalantly picking up a piece of litter along his way. The general promoted him to corporal on the spot.”

That new corporal was Vasquez.

“It wasn’t the fact that I saw in this an opportunity to get promoted, but I saw the value of doing the right thing when no one else is looking. Sometimes good deeds are rewarded, but that should never be an incentive for doing the right thing. That incentive should come from within and from striving to live up to the legacy we have of being a Marine.”

**Challenge 4:
Be proud**

Challenge number four, he explained, is to “be proud of who you are, what you represent, and aware at all times that there are always people watching. If you get this concept down, everything else will fall into place and there will be no need for anyone to worry about America or her Marine Corps.”



Photo by E.C. STARNES

Chief Warrant Officer 3 J.D. Vasquez is joined by his brothers John, right, and Jimmy during his retirement ceremony following 25 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Being a Marine can carry a high price. He said the young Marine who “is teeming at the bit to talk to anyone who will take the time to listen to him as he rambles about his uncle’s farm tractor or his last letter from his girlfriend” is the same young Marine who can be thrust into a situation in which he may have to kill someone or make decisions which could cost him or his friends their lives.

**Challenge 5:
Instill pride**

Challenge number five, he said, was instilling pride in being a Marine one-on-one.

“There aren’t enough hours in a day to be able to do this with every single Marine you’ll meet in the course of a day, but when you, as a superior in the chain of command, give him your undivided attention, even if it’s only for a minute or two, he will feel better about himself. He’ll perform better, guaranteed.”

**Challenge 6:
Selfless leadership**

Being a selfless leader is challenge number six, Vasquez said.

“This leadership trait is often misunderstood or may seem to be of less importance than others,” he said, explaining that a young Marine will do his duty, no matter how trivial, because he was taught discipline and selflessness in part by drill instructors in basic training, because of how his lead-

ers have impressed him, and because of how his parents raised him from “day one.”

“The reality of life in today’s world,” Vasquez told those gathered, “is that any one of them could be thrust into combat the day following their graduation from school here at APG.”

**Challenge 7:
Remember veterans**

Challenge number seven is to remember our veterans, he said, noting that “the Corps is the only remaining service that still requires its active duty forces to make every effort to provide color guards, firing details or ‘Taps’ to those veterans who have fallen. This is an honor. This is a solemn duty. We owe this to those who’ve gone before us.

“After all,” he continued, “it’s those Americans who live outside the gates who look to us for their defense, and they’ve come to expect nothing less from the Marines. Don’t let them down.”

**Challenge 8:
Take care of NCOs**

Challenge number eight involves what Vasquez describes as “the greatest challenge I see coming down the pike to all who will serve as Marines – a tendency to lessen the power of NCOs.”

“Fight this,” he emphasized. “If I could influence things, I’d go in the opposite direction. Discipline needs to be even tougher in the days ahead. The

more we prepare during peacetime, the more favorable the outcome will be in battle.”

**Challenge 9:
Be prepared for battle**

This led him directly to challenge number nine.

“Until the day you leave the Corps, never forget – not for one second – that you have a tremendous responsibility to the nation and that duty is to remain mentally and physically prepared to meet and kill another human being on a battlefield,” he said. “That statement may be offensive to some who are concerned with political correctness, but nonetheless it is a very real possibility. Every Marine, regardless of his MOS (military occupational skill), is a rifleman first.

“If you don’t know the mission of a Marine rifle squad by heart, memorize it,” Vasquez said. “Here it is ... the mission of a Marine rifle squad is to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by means of fire and maneuver, or to repel the enemy’s assault by means of fire and close combat. Remain mentally and physically ready, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to do just that if called upon to do so.”

In thanking his family, he discussed his father, who worked for 35 years as a machinist, “enduring tremendous prejudice and adversity along the way.”

“He’s in his 80s now and has suffered from painful arthritis for many years. To the best of my knowledge, none of us, his children of whom I am the youngest, have heard him complain about his pain or fail to do whatever my Mom said he had to do. For me, men like my Dad are the unsung heroes who make defending this country a noble and worthwhile pursuit.

“I also want to say a few words about my mother. I have never met another human being who is more compassionate, understanding, or willing to open his or her arms to others as unconditionally as my sweet mother. She is simply the bedrock of our family and the most loving person I’ve ever known.”

Vasquez thanked his brothers: “Jack, [who] taught me the basics of mechanics in junior high school and more importantly the importance of smiling no matter how terrible the hand is you’re dealt in this life. Ben, [who] taught me how to weld and never accept anything less than perfect. Lewie, [who] taught me the importance of being organized and disciplined. Jimmy, [who] taught me about pride and doing things the right way, the first time. And, John, [who] taught me to improvise and persevere and make it possible, even if it seems impossible.”

“My sister Connie,” he continued, “taught me that love is unconditional and the meaning of patience.”

He also paid tribute to his wife, Pat, and their daughters, Amanda and Amy. Earlier, the detachment commander noted that being a Marine wife is one of the hardest challenges there is. But, as her husband retired, Thomas told Pat that “The deployments have ended. You can take down the yellow ribbons. Your Marine is coming home.”

Vasquez joined the APG Marine Corps Detachment in 1996 and has served as platoon commander and chief instructor for each military occupational specialty taught at OC&S.

He was presented the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for representing the Marine Corps throughout the local community, at some 80 funerals, parades and holiday and memorial observances. He assisted local American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Elks, and worked with Perry Point Veterans Center to provide volunteers and assistance.

Vasquez, who earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland in May 1997 after 25 years of part-time school, will move his family to Cape Cod and begin a career in the tree care industry. In honor of his qualifications as a parachutist and Navy-trained frogman, his new company will be called SkyFrog Tree Service.

AROUND THE ARMY

Tomb of the Unknowns sentinel makes his last walk

By Renee McElveen
Pentagram staff writer

An ice storm the night before left everything encased in crystal, creating a surreal atmosphere.

The only sounds were the popping of tree branches breaking under the weight of the ice, and the measured clicks of metal on marble as SSgt. James T. Taylor’s boots traced a precise pattern.

It was 6:45 a.m. on Jan. 15 at Arlington National Cemetery. Taylor was preparing for what would be his 785th walk, his final walk, as a sentinel. He had a chance to prepare now, before the cemetery opened to the public, and run through one time with others the last-walk ceremony that would mark the end of his tour as an honor guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

This day was a long time coming for the 32-year-old Tennessee native. He was a materiel storage and handling specialist attending Advanced Individual Training in 1986 at Fort Lee, Va., when his platoon traveled to Washington, D.C., to see the guard-change ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknowns.

He was so impressed by the ceremony, he asked his platoon sergeant how he could go about becoming a sentinel. At that time, the duty Military Occupational Specialty was limited to infantrymen. Taylor did not think he could ever become a sentinel since he was serving in a logistics MOS.

He completed his enlistment in 1988 and left active duty to join the Tennessee National Guard back home. Taylor attended college in Berea, Ky., then transferred to Middle Tennessee State in Murfreesboro, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in special education in 1993.

He re-enlisted that same year as an infantryman. Taylor said he decided to go back on active duty because he missed the Army and the camaraderie of military service.

“You don’t get that anywhere else,” he explained.

Taylor was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) in the Military District of Washington in 1994 and spent a



Photos by SHANNON DUCKWORTH

SSgt. James T. Taylor places a rose at the Tomb of the Unknowns, on his last day as a sentinel. Below left, he prepares for his final walk with help from Pfc. Daniel Baccus; bottom right, he delivers emotional final remarks to his fellow sentinels at the Tomb of the Unknowns, as his fiancée, Angie R. Hunter, looks on during the ceremony following Taylor’s last walk.

year in Delta Company performing ceremonial duties in the cemetery. He volunteered to become a sentinel for The Tomb of the Unknowns, and was transferred to Hotel Company.

Taylor then entered an intensive training program for his new assignment. The train-up period for a sentinel is about six months.

Not only does the sentinel have to learn “the walk,” he must become proficient in the manual of arms for the M-14 rifle, prepare his uniform to standard, learn a seven-page history of The Tomb of the Unknowns, memorize 150 locations of headstones as well as pages upon pages of facts about the cemetery in “The Knowledge Book,” such as the caparisoned horse for the funeral of President John F. Kennedy (Black Jack), the number of POWs buried in Arlington National Cemetery (three – two Italian and one German), and the meaning of “cenotaph” (a head-

stone erected in memory of someone whose remains are not recoverable).

The purpose of learning these facts is for the sentinel to be able to answer questions during the frequent visitor tours of their quarters below the amphitheater, Taylor said. Also, the sentinels often are stopped on their way to their cars by the tourists and asked about locations of burial sites of famous individuals.

The Knowledge Book also contains the mission statement of the sentinel, the “guard of honor” for the Tomb of the Unknowns. The sentinel is to be responsible “for maintaining the highest standards and traditions of the U.S. Army and this nation while keeping a constant vigil at this national shrine.”

Sentinels are tested periodically throughout their training, said Master Sgt. Richard K. Cline, sergeant of the guard for the sentinels. Oral exams are administered at three-, six-, nine- and 12-

week intervals. Cline said a timed performance exam accompanies these tests. Sentinels must take the test administrator to the headstones of persons named by the administrator and give biographical sketches on the notables within the time allotted.

To “graduate” and qualify to wear the Tomb Badge, sentinels must take and pass a written exam, pass a uniform inspection, and demonstrate proficiency in the time-honored ritual of maintaining the guard sentinel, referred to simply as “the walk.” Taylor said that he had to learn how to eliminate any bounce whatsoever in his walk, which translates to a technique of rolling the feet in a particular manner. His trainer told him the walk should make people think of the way a ghost might move, drifting along smoothly with no up and down movement.

In addition, the sentinel’s arms must not bend at the elbows during the walk, but instead swing in a straight line like a pendulum on a grandfather clock. The eyes must stay focused straight ahead, ignoring the crowds of tourists, which can number up to 2,000 at a single changing of the guard ceremony during the summer months, Cline said.

Taylor said it irritates him when soldiers outside The Old Guard tell him he has “easy duty” because all he does is “walk back and forth.” He says they have no idea of the intensive training involved, the performance standard required in all weather conditions, and the level of commitment sentinels have to their job.

“This is probably the greatest honor I ever will have,” he said.

Taylor said he has performed his sentinel duty under all types of weather conditions. Snow, sleet, rain, heat, or even thunderstorms do not deter the sentinels from guarding The Tomb of the Unknowns.

A poem submitted by a visitor (known only as Simon) to The Tomb of the Unknowns in 1971 has since been adopted as “The Sentinel’s Creed.”

“My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted. In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter, and with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection. Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the element, I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability. It is he who commands the respect I protect, his bravery that made us so proud. Surrounded by well-meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance.”

Sentinels are on duty for 24 hours, then off for 24 hours. During winter, sentinels perform two or three hour-long walks each 24-hour period, and two hour-long night shifts. During the summer, sentinels perform six or seven 30-minute walks, and two night shifts.

Cline said the walks are shortened to 30 minutes during the summer months to accommodate the large number of tourists visiting the MDW area. Shorter walks result in more changing-

of-the-guard ceremonies, a popular attraction at the cemetery.

Taylor said he has had many memorable moments as a sentinel. Two moments, one very public and one very private, stand out in particular.

In 1997, he was selected as the presidential wreath bearer for President Bill Clinton during the Veterans Day Ceremony at The Tomb of the Unknowns. Taylor admitted he was nervous, but once the National Anthem started playing, he said, “I felt like a giant out there.”

The private moment occurred during one of his early-morning walks. The only visitor at that hour was a man wearing uniform items from the Vietnam War era. Taylor said the man stood at attention at the end of the plaza near the guard booth, saluting him. The man watched for the entire hour and appeared to be very emotional.

“It was a real moving experience for me,” Taylor said.

He said he changed his uniform after his tour, then went back up to the amphitheater to try to find the man so that he could speak with him, but he was already gone.

While assigned to Hotel Company, Taylor held five positions at The Tomb of the Unknowns. He was a sentinel, an assistant relief commander, a relief commander, an assistant sergeant of the guard and a trainer.

One of the sentinels he trained, William Q. Hanna, returned for Taylor’s last walk.

See TOMB, page 7



AROUND THE ARMED SERVICES

Pentagon repeats: anthrax vaccine is safe

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Pentagon officials insist the mandatory anthrax vaccine has proven to be safe.

“It’s safe and reliable,” Pentagon Spokesman Ken Bacon said. “It works and has no side effects.”

Reporters queried Bacon about the vaccine Jan. 21 during

a Pentagon briefing after eight pilots from Connecticut’s Air National Guard 103rd Fighter Wing said they planned to resign rather than take the six-shot series.

The unit, which flies A-10 Thunderbolts, is scheduled to deploy to the Gulf later this year.

The anthrax vaccine is mandatory for all service members, active duty and reserve, but priority is being given to people going to Southwest Asia and Korea, Bacon explained.

“After that, people who are likely to deploy to these or other hot spots are in line to get the shots,” he said.

Bacon reported that during exit interviews, six of the eight Connecticut pilots said anthrax was only one of many factors that entered into their decision to resign.

“Some may have found that the pressures of staying in the air guard and training were hard to balance with their family or busi-

ness lives,” he said. “Some may not have wanted to deploy to the Gulf for personal reasons.”

As of Jan. 12, Bacon said, 166,233 service members have received 463,226 shots, including DoD’s top civilian and military leaders, he added.

“All of these people are fine,” Bacon said.

Anthrax shots are “a very safe and very important force protection measure” aimed at protecting people from the risks on the battlefield, Bacon said.

“Biological warfare is one of the emerging threats we face,” he said.

The vaccine was certified by the Food and Drug Administration in 1970. Since then, veterinarians, laboratory workers and livestock handlers

have used the vaccine, Bacon said.

Every vaccine poses some risks, however, Bacon noted, including reactions.

“The reactions tend to be extremely minor - a little redness on the arm, for instance. A serious reaction is one that might involve a slightly elevated fever.”

The program has been “extremely successful,” Bacon said, adding, “I think soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines understand this is for their own protection.... almost all willingly take these shots.”

For more information on the anthrax immunization program, go to the DoD web site “Countering the Anthrax Threat” at <http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/Anthrax/>.

NCO promotions will skyrocket in February

By Gerry J. Gilmore
Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Jan. 22, 1999) - The Army’s noncommissioned officer corps will experience a promotion explosion Feb. 1.

A total of 6,560 soldiers have been selected for promotion to sergeant through sergeant major rank in February compared to 3,720 on January’s NCO promotion lists, said Sgt. Maj. William T. Hursh, enlisted promotion proponent, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

At a time when the Army had planned to trim its senior career NCOs (sergeants major, master sergeants and sergeants first class), it is promoting more NCOs, overall, in years, Hursh said. February promotions to staff sergeant (2,400) and sergeant first class (1,400), he said, more than doubled those made in January.

Hursh said the February lists shows 80 soldiers slated for promotion to sergeant major and 280 selected for master sergeant rank, representing increases over January of 60 and 80 promotions, respectively. The Army will also promote 2,400 soldiers to sergeant in February, an increase of 400 compared to January.

“There will be significant increases in promotions to sergeant major and master sergeant,” he said. “But, the really significant increases [compared to January] will occur in promotions to sergeant first class and staff sergeant.

“This is significant because these are your primary trainers. They are the platoon sergeants, drill sergeants, recruiters, section chiefs. These promotions are important to the Army; it helps readiness.”

A reduction of NCO positions, known as Change-in-NCO-Structure (CINCOS), was planned for last fall, Hursh said, but was pushed back to this summer. This circumstance, he said, has enabled the Army to promote more NCOs.

“Originally, CINCOS was going to be executed for fiscal year ‘99, with a lot of the reductions occurring in October ‘98, to get to where we needed to be in September 1999,” Hursh said. “Leadership re-looked at that, and decided to do the [NCO] reductions this June, instead.

“This meant we could promote more NCOs in February; these soldiers probably would have been promoted in the next four to six months, but we were able to pull their promotions forward,” he said.

Hursh said, post-drawdown Army planners must now replace those soldiers who depart the service or retire, including NCOs, on a “one-for-one” basis.

Consequently, when sergeants major and master sergeants retire, Hursh said, more promotion opportunity is created for all NCOs.

Hursh said overall NCO promotions projected for March could still top those made in January.

“[Overall NCO] promotions should go back to a more normal state in March, but they might be a little higher than those from January,” Hursh said.

Soldier makes final walk at tomb

TOMB, from page 6

Hanna completed his enlistment in the Army in December. He said he served with Taylor for more than two years, and wanted to be present for his “special moment.”

Hanna explained that the last walk is a “rite of passage” and an emotional event for a sentinel as he pays his final respects to The Tomb of the Unknowns.

“I could hardly get through mine,” he recalled.

At 10:45 a.m., Taylor asked Hanna to drive to the Visitors Center to pick up his family and bring them to the amphitheater. His mother, Sandra S. Taylor of Knoxville, Tenn., drove 10 hours through the ice storm so she could be there for his last walk. His father, James L. Taylor, and stepmother, Linda Taylor, of Middlesboro, Ky., spent nine hours on the road as well.

While waiting for his final hour-long walk as a sentinel, Taylor made adjustments to his uniform. He pulled adjusted the brim of his Dress Blues service

cap over his eyes, checking his reflection in the mirror. Pfc. Daniel Baccus took a large piece of masking tape and blotted stray lint on Taylor’s raincoat. Taylor ran water over his white gloves and rubbed them together. The water provides a better grip on the wooden stock of the M-14 rifle.

At 11 a.m., the bells tolled the hour and Taylor made his way down the marble sidewalk to take his place on the plaza for the last time. Cline inspected his uniform and weapon, then Taylor spent the next hour guarding the Tomb of the Unknowns.

At noon, the bells tolled the hour again. Taylor walked to the center of the plaza to retrieve four red roses from his fiancée, standing at the base of the steps.

He placed one red rose at the base of each of the three crypts, and the fourth rose at the base of the marble tomb. A bugler played “Taps.” Taylor saluted. His last walk as a sentinel at The Tomb of the Unknowns was over.

COMING UP...

FRIDAY JANUARY 29 GRAND OPENING

The AA Recreation Center will have the grand opening of the “Aberdeen Room” for NCOs, warrant officers and officers at 7 p.m., with complimentary refreshments and door prizes. For more information, call 410-278-2621.

SUNDAY JANUARY 31 SUPER BOWL BASH

Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday on post at two events. The NCO Super Bowl Bash will be held at the AA Recreation Center, 6 p.m. The Third Annual Super Bowl Bash for AIT students will be held at the Post Theater. Tickets are a \$1.50 donation and can be purchased through the first sergeants at 16th Ordnance Battalion. There will be door prizes and giveaways. For information, call SSgt. Wooten, 410-278-5361.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 1 CANCER HELP

A “Look Good ... Feel Better” program will be held at 7 p.m.

at the Oncology Center at Riverside, 1200 Brass Mill Rd., Belcamp. This free program is sponsored by the American Cancer Society to help women undergoing cancer treatment to deal with the cosmetic side-effects of chemotherapy and radiation. B. Ramsey Bane will be the trained cosmetologist leading the program. To register, call the American Cancer Society at 1-888-ACS-NEED (1-888-227-6333).

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 CMU BRIEFING

Central Michigan University will have an information briefing on its master’s degree program in information resource management from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Army Education Center, building 3146, room 12. For more information call the CMU office at 410-278-9827.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9 BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up for the Red Cross blood drive from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center, building 3326. Red Cross officials said blood supplies are

extremely low. Call 410-278-2087 to make an appointment. The process takes about 45 minutes.

BLUE CROSS VISIT

A claim representative of the Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) will visit APG under arrangements by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. from 9-11:30 a.m. in building 305, room B-14, and 12:30-1:30 p.m., in building E-4420. No appointment is necessary.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 EA-OWC LUNCHEON

Join the EA Officers Wives Club at Hunan Chef Restaurant, 5 Bel Air South Parkway (Festival Shopping Center) for the monthly luncheon. Jill Brock, EA-OWC member and Weight Watcher’s leader, will speak on weight management and healthy eating. She lost 40 pounds seven years ago and has kept the weight off. OWC members and guests are invited to attend. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch being served at noon. Each lunch includes a fruit dessert and fortune cookie, coffee and tea. The cost is

\$6.50 per person. Call Rosemary Kramp at 410-569-7167 by Feb. 5 to make your reservation.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11 PRAYER BREAKFAST

The 1999 APG National Prayer Breakfast will be held from 7-8:30 a.m. at the APG Chapel Social Hall, building 2485. The guest speaker will be Chaplain (Col.) Herbert J. McChrystal, U.S. Military Academy Command Chaplain. Tickets are available through unit command sergeants major or first sergeants. A \$2 donation at the door is suggested. Get tickets by Jan. 28.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 BIG AWARDS, DANCE

The Susquehanna Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) will present its first Awards Dinner Dance at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Chesapeake in Aberdeen. The proceeds will benefit the BIG Youth Scholarship Program. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact Jackie Pitts, 410-273-7915, or any other BIG member.

MOVIES

A BUG’S LIFE

Friday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m.

Animated

The ants on Ant Island perform double duty at harvest time, they gather food for themselves and a gang of greedy grasshoppers. Flik decides to take a stand against the grasshoppers and enlists the help of flea circus performers. (Rated G)

THE RUGRATS MOVIE

Saturday, Jan. 30, 1 p.m., 7 p.m.

Animated

The Pickles family faces the biggest adventure of any household, the birth of a new child, Dil Pickle. Big brother Tommy and his pals decide that the baby is cramping their style and decide to take him back to the hop-sickle. (Rated G)

PSYCHO

Saturday, Jan. 30, 9 p.m.

Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche

Desperate to make a new life for herself, Marion Crane steals money from her employer and leaves Phoenix. As night falls she seeks refuge at the desolate Bates Motel. (Rated R)

WAPG-TV

The following programs are scheduled Jan. 28-Feb. 3 on WAPG-TV, on-post cable channel 3:

THURSDAY, Jan. 28

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)
2 p.m., Two Minute Report - John Hamre on Y2K

FRIDAY, Jan. 29

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Two Minute Report - Around the Services
2 p.m., FERS: Is it for me? (90 minutes)

MONDAY, Feb. 1

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)
2 p.m., Two Minute Report - John Hamre on Y2K

TUESDAY, Feb. 2

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Two Minute Report - Around the Services
2 p.m., FERS: Is it for me? (90 minutes)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3

10 a.m., 7 p.m., Army Newswatch (30 minutes)
2 p.m., Two Minute Report - John Hamre on Y2K

For more information, contact Lynn Witkowski, 410-278-1151.

LEAVE DONATION

These employees are eligible to receive donations through the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program:

Michael Alexander (wife has cancer);
Lena Blethen;
John Boyle (surgery);
Barbara Breithaupt (multiple sclerosis);
Bonnie Bromley (liver transplant);
Alberta Brown (mother ill);
Daniel Brown (father has emphysema);
Linda Brown (diabetic);
Sheila Cassidy (mother has cancer);
Cara Coe (maternity);
Dawn Crouse (surgery);
Tamara Dawson (maternity);
Dennis Green;
Herman Hensley;
Gordon Herron (Wife has cancer)
Joseph Hill (heart problems);
Judy Hunt (arthropathy);
Eldon Jerome James (lung cancer and brain tumor);
Marcia Johnson (Down’s Syndrome child requires surgery);
Mary Johnson (surgery);
Marlin Julian (heart surgery);
Beverly King (caring for husband);
Barbara LaGrange (Hodgkins Disease);
Patricia LaGrange;
Sherrie Laury (heart problems);
Dolores “Dee” McGrogan (back problems);
Susan Naccarato (carpal tunnel syndrome);
Lesley Parker (daughter has seizures);
Cathleen (Higgins) Perry;
Jack Pollitt (caring for wife);
Churon Ringgold;
Mary Lee Samples (lymphoma cancer);
John Sheppard (colon cancer);
Rita Sluder (mother has cancer);
Walter Taylor (auto accident);
Lavonne Telsee (caring for daughter);
Deborah Tredway (car accident);
Joseph Walker (Wife has cancer)
Cecelia Walton (respiration problems);
Kenneth Weathers (medical);
Frank Winters (surgery).

For information about donating annual leave; call Cheryl Gatling; 410-278-8978; or send a fax to 410-278-8839.

Radio, TV stations to announce closings

Fourteen area radio stations and two television stations will provide information on post closings. Announcements should begin at about 5 a.m. Announcements about federal offices in the greater Baltimore metropolitan area do not apply to APG; listen for those that name the post specifically, on these stations:

STATION	FREQUENCY	LOCATION
WAMD	AM 970	Aberdeen
WXCY	FM 103.7	Havre de Grace
WBAL	AM 1090	Baltimore
WIYY	FM 97.9	Baltimore
WPOC	FM 93.1	Baltimore
WDEL	AM 1150	Wilmington, Del.
WSTW	FM 93.7	Wilmington, Del.
WNRK	AM 1260	Newark, Del.
WROZ	FM 101.3	Lancaster, Pa.
WSBA	AM 910	York, Pa.
WARM	FM 103.3	York, Pa.
WMAL	AM 630	Washington, D.C.
WTOP	AM 1500	Washington, D.C.
WASH	FM 97.1	Washington, D.C.
WBAL-TV	Channel 11	Baltimore
WJZ-TV	Channel 13	Baltimore

Contact unit tax advisors for help with filing taxes

The following unit tax advisors have been appointed to provide free tax help to active duty military personnel and their dependents:

410-278-3979	410-436-7268	SGT ANDREW J. IGNATZ 410-278-1870	SGT JESSE M. SCHMIDT 410-278-5605
16th Ord Bn, HHC SFC HARRY B. ANDERSON 410-278-4422	61st Ord Bde, HHC SSG LEROY BENNETT 410-306-5770	KUSAHC SSG RANDY G. RIGGS 410-278-1958	USMC GY SGT K.R. BROWNING 410-278-9261
143d Ord Bn, A Co SSG BENJAMIN L. CONNOR 410-436-4443	16th Ord Bn, HHC 1LT MARTIN A. GRIFFITH 410-278-8594	61st Ord Bde, HHC SSG LEONARD FARLOW 410-278-2957	USMC SSGT RICKY A. COOLONG 410-278-2831
143d Ord Bn, B Co SFC WILLIAM COLLINS 410-436-4212	16th Ord Bn, HHC SSG PATRICK MCGRATTAN 410-306-1526	61st Ord Bde, HHC SGT BANGURA KHA-BEN-NEH 410-278-5041	USMC SGT MICKEY E. GIBSON 410-278-8559
143d Ord Bn, B Co 2LT MICHAEL POTTRATZ 410-436-4212	16th Ord Bn, HHC SFC LAWRENCE D. SMITH 410-278-2553	61st Ord Bde, HHC SSG DARRUN E. MURPHY 410-306-3010	USMC SSG TODD I. MASON 410-278-0606
143d Ord Bn, HHC SFC JOHNNIE GATLIN 410-278-4848	16th Ord Bn, MSD SSG CHARLES GILLIAM 410-278-9886	61st Ord Bde, HQ CW3 RICHARD L. KRAUSE 410-278-3170	Volunteer, Edgewood DENISE DOESBURG 410-436-6092/3044
143d Ord Bn, HHC SSGT ANTHONY D. MASON 410-436-5339	16th Ord Bn, TSED SFC CARL LAKSHMANAN 410-278-3444	AMSAA SFC LUIS M. EMMANUELLI 410-278-8735	Volunteer, Tax Center MICHAEL R. O’HERN 410- 278-3397
16th Ord Bn, A Co 1LT JASON LODGE 410-278-8732	203d MI Bn CPT MARK J. STAUD 410-278-7800	ARL, WMRD LTC VERNON TAYLOR 410-306-0663	Volunteer, Tax Center CW3(RET) HOWARD SWINK 410-278-3397
16th Ord Bn, B Co 1LT MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN 410-278-5445	389th Army Band SGT KEITH D. CALMES 410-278-8769	CHPPM 1LT TANYA KITTELL 410-436-5476	For further information and assistance with tax preparation and/or electronic filing, contact your unit tax advisor on the list here, or the Taxpayer Assistance Center, building 310, wing 4A, 410-278-3397/1583.
16th Ord Bn, C Co 1LT KARL BRUECKNER 410-278-5552	389th Army Band SGT JANINE STILLWELL 410-278-8769	DENTAC SPC CAROL HARDIE 410-278-1795	
16th Ord Bn, E Co SPC CHARLOTTE OTORUBIO	520th TAML SSG ALFONSO CLEMMINGS	KUSAHC	

MWR UPDATE

Make reservations now

Outdoor Recreation is accepting reservations from APG organizations for the 1999 picnic season. Maryland Boulevard and Skipper’s Point may be reserved now for organizational day picnics and parties. The Shore Pool and Woodpecker Point Picnic Areas are available on a first come, first serve basis. On-post organizations have reservation priority through Feb. 14. Off-post organizations and groups may make reservations beginning Feb. 16. Call 410-278-4124 for more information. CAPA Field is reserved through the Civilian Welfare Fund; call 410-278-4603 for details.

EA Arts and Crafts

Porcelain Doll Class: A beginning Porcelain Doll Class will be held on Fridays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 9:30 a.m.-noon. The cost of the class is \$30 and pre registration is required.
Ceramic Pouring: Learn to pour your own greenware on Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 a. m.- 1 p.m. Cost is \$7 plus supplies. Registration is required.
Framing Class: Matting and Framing for Beginners will be held Thursday, Feb. 25, 5:30-9 p.m. Cost is \$15 plus approximately \$40 for supplies. Students must bring an 8x10-inch photo or piece of artwork to frame. Registration is required.
Custom Framing: The center provides custom framing. For prices and information bring your piece in for an estimate. Stop by Thursdays, 1-9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 410-436-2153 or visit building E-4440.

Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation recreational vehicle lots have spaces available in the Aberdeen and Edgewood Areas and are for all MWR patrons. The monthly fee is

\$12 for items up to 20 feet in length. Vehicles over 20 feet cost an additional \$.60 per foot. Vehicles must be registered and insured. Call, 410-278-4124, or stop by building 2407.

Aberdeen Fitness Centers

Any civilian or military organization who would like to participate in group PT, contact the AA Health and Fitness Center to reserve a time spot in an aerobic class. The center will provide organizations with a certified instructor to teach a class. For more information, call or stop by the the AA Health and Fitness Center, building 320, at 410-278-9725/9759. The center is open Monday-Thursday, 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday: 5:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m.-noon. We also have an immediate opening for a certified aerobic instructor. Call the center for details.

ITR has specials

You can stay at a resort for seven days for just \$209 through the RCI space-available program. Stop by the ITR Office and pick up a voucher and a list of locations available. You must book before Jan. 31, and use the accommodations by Dec. 31.

Ski information: Check these web sites and phone numbers for information; www.weather.com or www.visitnepa.org; Ski Liberty - www.skiliberty.com or (717) 642-9000; Ski Roundtop - www.ski-roundtop.com or (717) 432-7000; Ski Montage - www.ski-montage.com or 1-800-Got-Snow or (717) 969-Snow; Seven Springs Mountain Resort...www.7springs.com or (800) 523-7777. For ski equipment rental, call Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124.

Tickets for boat, auto shows

The ITR Office now has Boat Show and Auto Show tickets for \$5.50 each. For

more information call Rose Bailey or Janie Waiters at 410-278-4011. The Boat Show will be held Jan. 30-Feb. 7; the Auto Show will be held from Feb. 6-14.

Hit the slopes

The ITR Office has ski lift tickets for Roundtop, Liberty, Camelback, and Montage ski resorts. For more information, call Rose Bailey or Janie Waiters at 410-278-4011. Ski Liberty or Roundtop: 5-10 p.m., \$22; mid week eight-hour (non-holiday), \$27.50; weekend/holiday eight-hour, \$38; Learn To Ski, ages 8 and up, Sunday-Friday, non-holiday, \$32. Camelback: night, \$19; mid-week \$27; weekend/holiday \$42. Montage: night, \$16.50; mid-week \$23.50; weekend/holiday \$31; Learn To Ski, ages 11 and up, \$31. The ITR staff has received many calls for ski reports. For ski equipment/rental information call the Outdoor Recreation Center at 410-278-4124.

Valentine’s Day trips

Apple Vacations and Carlson Wagonlit Travel wants to send you and your sweetheart to the 40 miles of unbroken pearl-white sand beaches of Punta Cana. For seven nights beach lovers can enjoy an all-inclusive getaway for unbelievably low prices starting at \$898 per person! Punta Cana is a watersport lover’s playground. Surrounded by the clear turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. Offer is good Feb. 1-April 30. Non-stop flights are available from BWI and Philadelphia. (Prices are per person based on double occupancy, and include round-trip non-stop airfare; seven nights hotel accommodations, airport transfers, hotel taxes, and gratuities. U.S. and foreign departure taxes and airport fees are not included.) If seven nights are too long try the three and four night getaways from Philadelphia or BWI for as low as \$678.



Photo by KAREN JOLLEY DREWEN

Cindy Cattell, a recreation aide at the Equipment Resource Center, fills out forms for a ski rental on Friday.

Center offers options for renting everything you need for a ski trip

SKI, from front page
increments, and snowboards are available in sizes 125, 143, 151 and 159.
Cuomo explained that informing the center early will give the staff the opportunity to get the equipment ready and on file, so that patrons can have everything ready when they get there.
Cuomo said patrons are asked to reserve the equipment at least five days prior to their trip, so that the center can help make the trip hassle-free. Patrons also are asked to allow more time, when renting during cold weather or holidays.
“With Presidents Day coming up it is important that patrons rent equipment as early as possible,” he said. “There have been times when we haven’t been able to keep the skis on the shelves.”
In addition to renting equipment, Cuomo said the center is good for helping keep skis and snowboards in the best condition possible with its ski tuning shop. Patrons may have their skis hot waxed, edges sharpened and P-texted to help fill in gouges.
Cuomo said the center also checks bindings which should be checked every two years. He said after five years bindings begin to

deteriorate from salt from roads, and improper storage.
For those who do decide to rent from the center, Cuomo assured all equipment receives a maintenance check, and a fresh coat of hot wax is applied to skis and snowboards after each rental.
Cuomo said another benefit is the Equipment Resource Center’s prices as opposed to resorts and commercial rental outlets. Cuomo said patrons can rent a complete package of skis, boots and poles for \$14 per day. Cuomo said patrons may keep equipment from Friday after 3 p.m. until Sunday before noon for a one-day charge of \$14.
Cuomo said snowboards are \$15 per day, and added boots are not included. Car ski racks are also available for \$5 per day, and will fit skis or snowboards. Cuomo said the racks fit most vehicles.
Patrons who rent equipment for four or more days will receive a 25 percent discount.
Cuomo said the Outdoor Recreation Center can inform patrons of daily ski conditions. He said each morning the center receives faxes from resorts and also pulls up weather reports on

the Internet.
The center is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fridays, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 7 a.m.-noon. It is closed Wednesdays for maintenance and on all government holidays.
For more information, call the Equipment Resource Center at 410-278-4124/5789.

SPORTS UPDATE

Join the ‘Lady Bombers’

The Lady Bombers Basketball Team is recruiting players. If you are interested and have a valid military or civilian ID card, call the APG Sports Office at 410-278-4497, or come to practice on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Games are on weekends.
The Lady Bombers currently are in third place in the Washington Area Military Athletic Conference with a 3-3 record. Their next home game will be played on Saturday at the APG Athletic Center at 1 p.m.; call the number above for more information about upcoming games.

Run for the fun of it

Mark your calendars for the Annual Polar Bear 10K Road Race and 5K Fun Run on Feb. 27. The race is sponsored by the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School and the APG Community Recreation Division. The race begins at 9 a.m. at the APG Athletic Center. Entry forms are now available in all APG gymnasiums.
Fee for the race is \$10 before Feb. 12, and \$12 until Feb. 19. Late registration is \$15. Long-sleeved T-shirts will be given to the first 200 entries, and medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each division. The 5K Fun Run is free! There will be no awards, and T-shirts will be available for purchase. For more information, call Donna Coyne, race coordinator, at 410-278-7934.

Go All Army in volleyball

Any active duty soldier interested in participating on the All Army Volleyball Team needs to submit an application to the Sports and Fitness Office in building 3320 by Jan. 29. Candidates are advised to read AR 215-1, section 20c-4, which reviews the standards for All Army participation. Applications can be picked up at the Sports Office or from any of the APG gymnasiums. For more information, call Marni Allison at 410-278-4497.

Go All Army in track and field

Any active duty soldier interested in participating on the All Army Track and Field Team needs to submit an application to the Sports and Fitness Office in building 3320 by Feb. 11. Candidates are advised to read AR 215-1, section 20c-4, which reviews the standards for All Army participation and time requirements for track and field events. Applications can be picked up at the Sports Office or from any of the APG gymnasiums. For more information, call Marni Allison at 410-278-4497.

Billiards champs honored

The Intramural Billiards Championships and awards ceremony were held in the AA Recreation Center on Monday. The tournament began Jan. 19, with 39 male and four female competitors.

Shoot some hoops

The Mid-Atlantic Basketball Classic entries are still being accepted, which will be held at the APG Athletic Center on Feb. 5-7. This double elimination tournament is open to both military and civilian teams. Entry fee is \$275 per team, which must be paid by Jan. 29. All participants will receive an official Classic T-shirt, and awards will be given to the top two teams as well as the tournament MVP. For more information, call Harold Smith, tournament coordinator, at 410-436-3375.

